

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, claims 1-35 are pending, in which claims 1, 10, 16, 19, 27, and 31 is currently amended, claims 9 and 15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 34 and 35 are newly presented. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action mailed December 2, 2004 and rejected claims 1-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by *Longo et al.* (US 5,912,956).

To advance prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 10, 16, 19, 27, and 31. As amended, independent claims 1, 10 and 16 recite “wherein said pre-paid telephone calling card processing system plays, **without input by a user to request the playback**, said personal greeting upon use of the pre-paid telephone calling card by the user.” Independent claim 19 recites “cause, **without use of a prompt**, said personal greeting to be played during said access call.” Claim 27 now recites “causing said personal greeting to be played **without a prompt** during said access call, wherein said personal greeting was recorded during a calling card setup call.” Independent claim 31 recites “playing, **without prompting**, said pre-recorded personal greeting associated with said pre-paid telephone calling card during said telephone service access call.”

By contrast, *Longo et al.* is directed to a system and method for anonymously establishing telephone connections (Title) associated with unique identification tags (Abstract). In operation, the *Longo et al.* system, per FIG. 7 and col. 5: 32-41, utilizes a series of prompts to permit the user to select various options, including prompt #9 “Allows Caller to Hear a Recorded Message from Tag Owner.” Thus, a caller cannot listen to the recorded message without selecting prompt #9.

Accordingly, *Longo et al.* cannot anticipate the claim features of “cause, **without use of a prompt**, said personal greeting to be played during said access call.”

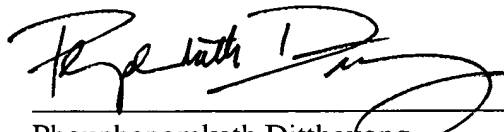
Turning now to newly added claims 34 and 35, these claims depend correspondingly from amended independent claims 1 and 11, and thus, should also be allowable. Additionally, claims 34 and 35 are patentable on their own merits. Specifically, claim 34 recites "wherein said pre-paid telephone calling card processing system **maintains status of whether said personal greeting is played.**" Claim 35 includes the features of "**maintaining status of whether said personal greeting is played.**" *Longo et al.* provides no such capability.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the rejection of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 425-8508 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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3/2/05  
Date

  
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